

Application No. 10/562319  
Responsive to the office action dated June 12, 2009

### REMARKS

This Amendment is in response to the Office Action mailed on June 12, 2009. Claims 1 and 9 are amended and are supported, for example, in the specification on page 11, lines 3-21. No new matter is added. Claims 1-20 are pending.

#### §103 Rejections:

Claims 1-15 and 17-20 are rejected as being unpatentable over Hasegawa ("Modified Phased Tracking Method for Measurement of Change in Thickness of Arterial Wall"). This rejection is traversed.

Claim 1 is directed to an ultrasonic diagnostic apparatus that recites, among other features, a boundary detection unit that detects a boundary position, wherein the detected boundary position is between the blood vessel wall and a blood flow region in a lumen of the blood vessel through which blood flows based on a track indicating a variation in the calculated movement amount in each of the plurality of parts and by detecting a position where neighboring parts have tracks with different features.

Hasegawa does not teach or suggest these features. The rejection asserts that Figure 1 and the last paragraph of Section 1 of Hasegawa teach the boundary detection unit of claim 1. However, this portion of Hasegawa merely teaches a phase tracking method that determines movement amounts in each of the plurality of parts. Nowhere does Hasegawa teach or suggest a boundary detection unit that detects a position where neighboring parts have the tracks with different features. Accordingly, nowhere does Hasegawa teach or suggest a boundary detection unit that detects a boundary position or a boundary detection unit detecting a position where neighboring parts have the tracks with different features, as recited in claim 1.

For at least these reasons claim 1 is not suggested by Hasegawa and should be allowed. Claims 2-8 depend from claim 1 and should be allowed for at least the same reasons.

Claim 9 is directed to an ultrasonic diagnostic apparatus that recites, among other features, a boundary detection unit that detects a boundary position, wherein the boundary position is between an inner membrane of the blood vessel and a blood flow

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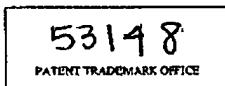
region in a lumen of the blood vessel through which blood flows and a position of a middle membrane of the blood vessel based on a track indicating a variation in the calculated movement amount in each of the plurality of parts and by detecting a position where neighboring parts have the tracks with different features..

Hasegawa does not teach or suggest these features. The rejection asserts that Figure 1 and the last paragraph of Section 1 of Hasegawa teach the boundary detection unit of claim 9. However, this portion of Hasegawa merely teaches a phase tracking method that determines movement amounts in each of the plurality of parts. Nowhere does Hasegawa teach or suggest a boundary detection unit that detects a position where neighboring parts have the tracks with different features. Accordingly, nowhere does Hasegawa teach or suggest a boundary detection unit that detects a boundary position or a boundary detection unit detecting a position where neighboring parts have the tracks with different features, as recited in claim 9.

For at least these reasons claim 9 is not suggested by Hasegawa and should be allowed. Claims 10-20 depend from claim 9 and should be allowed for at least the same reasons.

Conclusion:

In view of the above, early issuance of a notice of allowance is solicited. Any questions regarding this communication can be directed to the undersigned attorney, Douglas P. Mueller, Reg. No. 30,300 at (612) 455-3804.



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Respectfully submitted,

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